



## BOB ZIEGELBAUER

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
Issue Summary #4  
February 26, 2003

### “Tavern League’s Video Lottery Proposal”

#### **Background Information:**

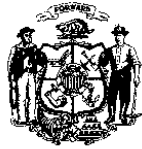
On Thursday, February 20, 2003, the Tavern League of Wisconsin announced details of a video lottery proposal – Fairness in Gaming Act – at a news conference. The details include that effective July 1, 2004, this proposal could provide up to five machines on the premise of a “Class B” licensed tavern establishment; permit a city, village or town to charge \$250 per machine licensing fee; and require minimum payout equal to that in the Tribal Compacts.)

#### **Rep. Ziegelbauer’s View:**

Despite continuing pressure coming from the Tavern League of Wisconsin and its local members, I do not support expanding legal gambling into taverns by allowing video gaming for several principal reasons:

- (1) I believe that on issues like these, I should reflect the views of the people I represent. Overwhelmingly and repeatedly, voters of my district and throughout Wisconsin have spoken in favor of maintaining the status quo, against expanded gambling, as expressed by referendum at the ballot box, statewide opinion polls, or my periodic issue questionnaire. (See results below.) Until I see that a strong majority of my constituents favor expanding gambling to taverns, I will find it difficult to support any such proposal. I think this shows that the people of our area recognize that in the long run, increased gambling isn’t good for us.
- (2) **It would be detrimental to our community.** Expanding gambling into every tavern is probably **not** a good idea. I believe it would work to further undermine the quality of life in our area. We should be wary of the long-term danger to our communities brought about by the temptation of short-term gambling dollars.
- (3) Currently, video gaming in taverns is not constitutional. The Wisconsin State Constitution presently prohibits it (Article IV, Section 24). The authority by which gambling is legal when conducted by an Indian nation doesn’t apply to a private business. Of course, the Constitution can be changed, but the process for amending the Constitution is long and difficult. It first requires passage by both Houses of two consecutive Legislatures. Then it must pass a statewide referendum. Given the results of previous referenda, it is doubtful that the people of Wisconsin would go along with such a change, and I wouldn’t support it.

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**Below are the results from the April 1, 1993 Statewide Advisory Referendum:**

(per 1991 WI Act 321)

	<u>YES:</u>	<u>NO:</u>
<b>Expand by allowing Gambling Casinos on excursion vessels:</b> <i>“Do you favor a law that would allow gambling casinos on excursion vessels operating in this state on the Mississippi River, Lake Michigan and Lake Superior?”</i>	44%	56%
<b>Gambling Casino restrictions:</b> <i>“Do you favor a constitutional amendment that would restrict gambling casinos in this state?”</i>	61%	39%
<b>Expand by allowing Video poker and other forms of video gambling:</b> <i>“Do you favor a law that would allow video poker and other forms of video gambling in this state?”</i>	34%	66%
<b>Continue Pari-mutuel on-track betting:</b> <i>“Do you favor continuing to allow pari-mutuel on-track betting on races in this state, such as horse, dog and snowmobile races?”</i>	52%	48%
<b>Continue State-operated lottery:</b> <i>“Do you favor continuing to allow the state operated lottery?”</i>	73%	27%

**Below are results from my issues questionnaires:**

Do you favor the expansion of gambling in Wisconsin?

	1993	1996	1997
Yes:	22%	19%	13%
<b>No:</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>81%</b>
Undecided:	7%	9%	6%

Do you favor legalizing video poker gambling in taverns?

	1996	1997	1999
Yes:	33%	28%	36%
<b>No:</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Undecided:	8%	6%	12%

I hope this information is useful to you.

Thanks again for your interest. As always, please do not hesitate to call on me with any comments you may have on this or on any other issue of importance to you.

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